

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** April 16, 2012

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### **Temple Parks Foundation Celebrates 10 Successful Years of Service**

(Temple) – The Temple Parks Foundation was founded in 2001 to support the Temple Parks System. Since then, the Foundation has been very active in the community.

“The Foundation was formed at the urging of the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Board as a good way to help improve the Temple park system beyond the funding capabilities of the City. Former Temple Mayor Buck Prewitt served as the first Foundation President and was able to get the Foundation actively involved with our parks from the very beginning,” said Ken Cicora, Parks and Leisure Services Director.

“Today the Temple Parks Foundation plays a very important role in the success of the parks system for the community,” said Cicora. “We would not be able to offer as many wonderful facilities and services without the support of the Foundation.”

Parks Foundation achievements include:

- Collaborated with Leadership Temple, Temple Rotary South, and the City of Temple to develop the South Temple Rotary Accessible Playground.
- Helped fundraise and build Whistle Stop Playground
- Fundraised to construct the Fountain of Tears Veterans Memorial adjacent to the Temple Municipal building
- Purchased the portable stage used for all community special events.
- Developed the Art-in-the-Park sculpture projects
- Produced the annual summer Movies In the Park series

“There are many challenges to becoming a successful community based foundation including having a dedicated board members and a strong mission statement. With our park foundation we are blessed with great

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Temple Parks Foundation board members and an outstanding mission statement: “Working to make Temple the most livable, beautifully connected community in Texas,” said Cicora.

“We love our community and know that we must all work together to create value of place. We are a group of individuals with many diverse backgrounds and interests working together to make a collective vision come to life,” said current Parks Foundation President Allan Einboden. “We all have a great love for the outdoors and want our community to be a place where everyone has access to safe, natural places to be in nature.”

The Foundation has many plans for the next 10 years as they continue their on-going projects and events and work towards new projects for the community. “We are focused on the development of outdoor venues for musical events and theater, and we look forward to seeing our parks become a community gathering place,” said Einboden.

Current and on-going projects include:

- Fundraising through Pickets in the Park for development and maintenance of Whistle Stop Playground and Temple Rotary South All Access Playground
- Increasing the Art in the Park project – A community effort to connect our park system and public areas with visual arts. Sculptures adorn neighborhood parks, community byways, and local businesses. 13 bronze statues have been placed in Temple as part of Art in the Park.
- Expanding Movies in the Park throughout the park system – A free movie series that entertains thousands of citizens annually (since 2006). Three free movies will be offered this summer at three different parks in Temple.
- Support the Memorial Tree program – A program which helps plant tree throughout the parks system by giving people the opportunity to plant a tree to honor an individual or occasion.
- Helped raise funds to place a shade structure over the Accessible Playground to make the park more useful during the hot summer months. The shade structure will be installed in Spring 2012.
- Raising money to build an Amphitheater for outdoor performances in Lions Park.

The Temple Parks Foundation is constantly working to improve the Temple parks system. The Foundation is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors and meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at the Scott & White Health Plan Building.

If you are interested in joining the Temple Parks Foundation or for more information, please visit [www.templeparks-foundation.org](http://www.templeparks-foundation.org) or contact 254.298.5774.

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